

**BEFORE THE
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the First Amended
Accusation Against:**

Laura Michelle Wadhams, L.M.

Case No. 800-2020-064274

**Physician's and Surgeon's
Certificate No. LM 293**

Respondent.

DECISION

**The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby
adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California,
Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.**

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on APR 19 2023.

IT IS SO ORDERED APR 12 2023.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA


Reji Varghese
Interim Executive Director

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 HARRIET NEWMAN
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8 **BEFORE THE**
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
Against:

Case No. 800-2020-064274

12 **LAURA MICHELLE WADHAMS, L.M.**
13 **17921 Moon Hill Ct.**
Hidden Valley Lake CA 95467-8097

**STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
LICENSE AND ORDER**

14 **Licensed Midwife No. LM 293**

15 Respondent.
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17
18 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
19 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Reji Varghese (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the Medical Board
22 of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs. He brought this action solely in his
23 official capacity and is represented in this matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of
24 California, by Harriet Newman, Deputy Attorney General.

25 2. LAURA MICHELLE WADHAMS, L.M. (Respondent) is representing herself in this
26 proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.

27 3. On or about January 4, 2011, the Board issued Licensed Midwife No. LM 293 to
28 Respondent. The Midwife license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges

1 brought in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274 and will expire on March 31, 2024,
2 unless renewed.

3 **JURISDICTION**

4 4. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274 was filed before the Board, and is
5 currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required
6 documents were properly served on Respondent on January 27, 2022. Respondent timely filed her
7 Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274
8 was filed on November 15, 2022. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274 is
9 attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

10 **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

11 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in First
12 Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands
13 the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

14 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a
15 hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to be
16 represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses
17 against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance
18 of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to
19 reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the
20 California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

21 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and
22 every right set forth above.

23 **CULPABILITY**

24 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First
25 Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby
26 surrenders her Midwife License No. LM 293 for the Board's formal acceptance.

27 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue
28 an order accepting the surrender of her Midwife license without further process.

CONTINGENCY

10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

11. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Midwife License No. LM 293, issued to Respondent LAURA MICHELLE WADHAMS, L.M., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Midwife license and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a midwife in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.

3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.

4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must

1 comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or
2 surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations
3 contained in First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274 shall be deemed to be true, correct
4 and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

5 5. Respondent may not petition for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered
6 license/registration for three (3) years from the effective date of this Decision. If the Board grants
7 future reinstatement, Respondent agrees to reimburse the Board for its costs of investigation and
8 enforcement of this matter in the amount of \$13,790 payable to the Board upon the effective date
9 of such reinstatement Decision.

10 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or
11 petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of
12 California, all of the charges and allegations contained in First Amended Accusation, No. 800-
13 2020-064274 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of
14 any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

15 ACCEPTANCE

16 I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the
17 stipulation and the effect it will have on my Midwife license. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender
18 of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the
19 Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

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21 DATED: 3/23/23



22 LAURA MICHELLE WADHAMS, L.M.
23 Respondent
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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted
for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: March 27, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
GREG W. CHAMBERS
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

/s/ Harriet Newman

HARRIET NEWMAN
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2021402492

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 800-2020-064274

1 ROB BONTA
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9 **BEFORE THE**
10 **DIVISION OF LICENSING**
11 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
13 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation
14 Against:

Case No. 800-2020-064274

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

15 **LAURA MICHELLE WADHAMS, L.M.**
16 **17921 Moon Hill Ct.**
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467-8097

17 **Licensed Midwife**
18 **No. LM 293**

19 Respondent.

20
21 **PARTIES**

22 1. William Prasifka (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in his
23 official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of
24 Consumer Affairs (Board).

25 2. On or about January 4, 2011, the Board issued Midwife Certificate Number LM 293
26 to Laura Michelle Wadhams, L.M. (Respondent). The Midwife Certificate was in full force and
27 effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on March 31, 2024,
28 unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

4. Section 2519 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

“The board may suspend, revoke, or place on probation the license of a midwife for any of the following:

“(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

...

“(5) The use of . . . alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that this use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.

“(6) Conviction of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in paragraphs (4) and (5) . . . in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof.

...

“(c) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a midwife, as determined by the board.

...

COST RECOVERY

5. Section 125.3 of the Code states:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before any board within the department or before the Osteopathic Medical Board, upon request of the entity bringing the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct a licensee found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

1 (b) In the case of a disciplined licensee that is a corporation or a partnership, the order may
2 be made against the licensed corporate entity or licensed partnership.

3 (c) A certified copy of the actual costs, or a good faith estimate of costs where actual costs
4 are not available, signed by the entity bringing the proceeding or its designated representative
5 shall be prima facie evidence of reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case. The
6 costs shall include the amount of investigative and enforcement costs up to the date of the
7 hearing, including, but not limited to, charges imposed by the Attorney General.

8 (d) The administrative law judge shall make a proposed finding of the amount of reasonable
9 costs of investigation and prosecution of the case when requested pursuant to subdivision (a). The
10 finding of the administrative law judge with regard to costs shall not be reviewable by the board
11 to increase the cost award. The board may reduce or eliminate the cost award, or remand to the
12 administrative law judge if the proposed decision fails to make a finding on costs requested
13 pursuant to subdivision (a).

14 (e) If an order for recovery of costs is made and timely payment is not made as directed in
15 the board's decision, the board may enforce the order for repayment in any appropriate court. This
16 right of enforcement shall be in addition to any other rights the board may have as to any licensee
17 to pay costs.

18 (f) In any action for recovery of costs, proof of the board's decision shall be conclusive
19 proof of the validity of the order of payment and the terms for payment.

20 (g)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the board shall not renew or reinstate the license
21 of any licensee who has failed to pay all of the costs ordered under this section.

22 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the board may, in its discretion, conditionally renew or
23 reinstate for a maximum of one year the license of any licensee who demonstrates financial
24 hardship and who enters into a formal agreement with the board to reimburse the board within
25 that one-year period for the unpaid costs.

26 (h) All costs recovered under this section shall be considered a reimbursement for costs
27 incurred and shall be deposited in the fund of the board recovering the costs to be available upon
28 appropriation by the Legislature.

1 (i) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from including the recovery of the costs of
2 investigation and enforcement of a case in any stipulated settlement.

3 (j) This section does not apply to any board if a specific statutory provision in that board's
4 licensing act provides for recovery of costs in an administrative disciplinary proceeding.

5 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

6 **(Unprofessional Conduct: Conviction of a Crime / Dangerous Use of Alcohol)**

7 6. Respondent Laura Michelle Wadhams, L.M. is subject to disciplinary action under
8 sections 2519, 2519 subdivision (a), 2519 subdivision (a)(5), 2519 subdivision (a)(6), and 2519
9 subdivision (c) of the Code, in that Respondent became extremely intoxicated, drove her car, got
10 in a serious accident where she flipped her car, and sustained a DUI conviction. The
11 circumstances are as follows:

12 7. On January 20, 2020, a California Highway Patrol officer responded to a report of a
13 traffic collision in Lake County. The officer located a solo vehicle on its roof with major rollover
14 collision damage. Respondent was located at the collision scene kneeling in the grass near her
15 vehicle. Upon his arrival, the officer determined that this was a solo vehicle traffic collision
16 involving a possibly impaired driver. The officer spoke with Respondent and detected the odor of
17 an alcoholic beverage emitting from her breath and person. The officer also observed
18 Respondent's slurred speech and eyes that were red and watery. Respondent reported to the
19 officer that she had consumed alcohol earlier in the evening and should not have been driving.
20 Respondent performed poorly on a series of field sobriety tests. Respondent submitted to a breath
21 test which recorded a blood alcohol level above .20%.

22 8. As a result of the January 20, 2020 crash, Respondent was charged in Lake County
23 Superior Court with violations related to driving under the influence of alcohol (Vehicle Code
24 sections 23152(a) and 23152(b)), with an enhancement for the very high blood alcohol level.
25 This matter is titled *People v. Laura Michelle Wadhams*, Superior Court of California, County of
26 Lake, Case Number CR956791. Respondent also has a prior DUI conviction from 2013, also
27 with an enhancement for having a blood-alcohol level above .15%. That 2013 conviction matter
28 is titled *People v. Laura Michelle Nichols*, Case Number CR931357. The criminal charge for the

1 2020 crash (Case Number CR956791) alleged that Respondent had suffered the prior 2013 DUI
2 conviction.

3 9. In resolution of the criminal matter arising out of the 2020 crash (Case Number
4 CF956791), and pursuant to a plea bargain agreement accepted by the court on September 30
5 2021, Respondent pled no contest and was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol
6 (Vehicle Code section 23152(b)), with an enhancement for the high blood alcohol level. She was
7 ordered to serve 20 days in jail (with credit for time served) and a 5-year summary probation.
8 Along with other terms, she was ordered not to drive with a measurable amount of alcohol in her
9 blood, to install an ignition interlock device for one year, and to enroll in a DUI program.

10 10. Respondent's 2021 criminal conviction, arising from the January 20, 2020 crash, for
11 driving under the influence of alcohol with a blood alcohol level well more than twice the legal
12 limit and a prior DUI conviction is substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties
13 of a midwife, and constitutes cause for discipline for unprofessional conduct pursuant to sections
14 2519 subdivision (a) (unprofessional conduct), section 2519 subdivision (a)(5) (use of alcoholic
15 beverages to an extent or in a manner dangerous to herself, any other person, or the public),
16 section 2519 subdivision (a)(6) (conviction involving the consumption of alcohol), and section
17 2519 subdivision (c) (conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions,
18 and duties of a midwife) of the Code.

19 **DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS**

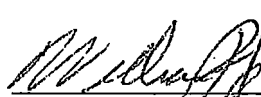
20 11. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent Laura
21 Michelle Wadhams, L.M., Complainant alleges that on or about March 18, 2013, in a prior
22 criminal proceeding titled *People v. Laura Michelle Nichols*, in Lake County Superior Court,
23 Case Number C931357, Respondent pled no contest and was convicted for violating 23152(b),
24 with an enhancement for having a blood-alcohol level above .15%. The record of the criminal
25 proceeding is incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

26 **PRAYER**

27 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,
28 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1 1. Revoking or suspending Licensed Midwife Number LM 293, issued to Respondent
2 Laura Michelle Wadhams, L.M.;
- 3 2. Ordering Respondent Laura Michelle Wadhams, L.M., to pay the Medical Board of
4 California the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, and if placed on
5 probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
- 6 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

7
8 DATED: NOV 15 2022



WILLIAM PRASIFKA
Executive Director
Midwifery Program
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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